

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A laundry machine drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation;

wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

2. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

3. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 2 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

4. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 1 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 4 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

7. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 6 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

8. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

9. (Original) A laundry machine drum as claimed in claim 7 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A laundry machine drum having~~ In a laundry machine having a drum with a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of openings therethrough, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the improvement comprising: at least one of said openings opening having a form such that the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said ~~perforation opening~~ opening than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said ~~perforation opening~~, such that fabric spans said openings but does not extrude through said openings during said centrifugal dehydration.

18. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 17 wherein said form of said openings is such that material surrounding said opening does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

19. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 18 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

20. (New) A laundry machine having a drum as claimed in claim 17 wherein said apparent area of said opening when viewed from substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said regions of said opening is substantially zero.

21. (New) In a laundry machine having a drum for holding a laundry load, which drum is spun at high speed in a dehydration operation to extract wash liquids by centrifugal forces, the drum having a sheet material skin including an arrangement of a plurality of perforations therethrough, the improvement comprising each of one or more of said perforations including:

a shear cut in said sheet material, the sheet being deformed in the region of said shear cut such that the edge of the sheet material of one side of said shear cut is offset from the edge of the sheet material of the other side of said shear cut over at least some of the length of said shear cut such that an opening is formed between said offset edges and the apparent area of said opening is greater when viewed from at least one direction substantially parallel to the general plane of said drum skin in the region of said perforation than when viewed from a direction substantially perpendicular to the general plane of said drum skin in said region of said perforation.

22. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum perforation is such that during said centrifugal dehydration said fabric spans said perforation but does not extrude through said perforation.

23. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said perforation does not project into said drum beyond said general plane of said drum skin.

24. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 23 wherein said deformed sheet material the material of one said side of said shear cut is displaced outward from the material of the other side of said shear cut relative to the intended spin axis of said drum, but the planar orientation of said regions immediately adjacent the edges of said regions at said shear cut are parallel to one another.

25. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 24 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

26. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum includes at least one group of two or more said perforations, said group defined by their proximity to one another, said openings of said group of perforations facing a common centre.

27. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 21 wherein said drum skin includes a plurality of dish-like depressions on its inner surface, with at least one said drum perforation located within each said dish.

28. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 26 wherein said group of drum perforations is located within a dish in the drum skin extending outwardly relative to the drum spin axis.

29. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 28 wherein said dish includes two said perforations opposingly oriented to one another such that the shear cuts thereof are parallel and a bridge of material is defined by said parallel cuts.

30. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced outwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.

31. (New) The improvement as claimed in claim 29 wherein said bridge of material is spaced inwardly further than the remaining material of said dish or dimple relative to said drum spin axis.